

Montana Brilliant Ideas



*HYPERLINKS are in RED

What is the Montana Behavioral Initiative?

The term initiative refers to proactive efforts by family, community, and school leaders to identify and prioritize concerns, teach acceptable alternatives to inappropriate behaviors and create a culture of respect in the academic setting. With this in mind, Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) is a content-based staff development philosophy and process designed to meet students' diverse and complex social, emotional, and academic needs.

Important Upcoming Dates

MBI Summer Institute at Montana State University - Bozeman

June 19 - 23, 2017

MBI Recognition System

The Montana Behavioral Initiative would like to recognize MBI Teams for the time and effort taken to successfully implement MBI at their sites. To accomplish this, MBI has created a multi-tiered recognition system. This system reflects the status of MBI implementation as teams build capacity to consistently and effectively offer positive behavior interventions and supports at each of the three tiers.

Applications for the levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum) include requirements for each level of MBI implementation, directions for the completion and submission of the application, and required information needed for the Summer Institute award ceremony. The applications can be downloaded from the gray box below.

Applications, documentation, narrative, and photos need to be submitted to your site's MBI Consultant no later than May 5, 2017. Please work closely with your consultant as you build your MBI process and reflect on the integrity and sustainability of your efforts. Schools receiving recognition will be notified by OPI prior to the Summer Institute. Recognition status levels will be announced at the award ceremony during the Thursday morning session of MBI Summer Institute.

Shodair Children's Hospital received the first ever award for a residential program.

MBI Summer Institute Preview - George Sugai

George Sugai is Professor and Carole J. Neag Endowed Chair in the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. His professional interests include effective classroom and behavior management practices, school-wide discipline, social skills instruction, special education, and positive behavior supports. He has been a classroom teacher, program director, and camp counselor. Currently, he is co-director of the OSEP Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, co-director of the Early Childhood Personnel Center, and research scientist in the UConn Center on Behavioral Education and Research.

George Sugai a keynote presenter and his presentation title is, "Doubling Down with Prevention". The purpose of this presentation is to highlight the defining features and importance of multi-tiered systems of support in the context of changing school climate and social norms. The need to increase attention on the preventive integration and implementation of academic and behavior supports for all students will be stressed, and big idea topics will include school climate, social skills instruction, culture, and implementation capacity development.

George Sugai will be presenting at the MBI Summer Institute, June 19, 2017.

MBI Summer Institute at Montana State University - Bozeman

June 19 - 23, 2017 *FREE registration for each team who incorporates a poster

MBI-Related Articles State and National - Past and Present



Commission Formed to
Advance Schools' Focus on
Social, Emotional Development



Peer-Led Anti-Bullying
Efforts Yield Payoffs



Teachers Can Be Key to Helping Students Cope With Trauma, Ed. Sec. Says

MBI Events/Topics

Montana Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training Act

The Montana Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training Act was passed by the Montana Legislature in 2015. The Act directs the Montana Office of Public Instruction to provide training and technical assistance to schools in Montana about youth suicide awareness and prevention training. Montana Suicide Prevention Webpage is a great resource for anyone that may need help. The National Crisis Text Line is a great resource for help; text MT 741 741, for 24/7 text response service. The Montana Conference on Suicide Prevention is on July 14, 2017 in Bozeman.

Advancing Education Effectiveness: Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF)

The Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) described in this monograph represents a proposed and developing interconnection of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and School Mental Health (SMH) systems to improve educational outcomes for all children and youth, especially those with or at risk of developing mental health challenges. This monograph represents a collective effort to further develop the ISF concept and guide the interconnection of PBIS and SMH toward effective multi-tiered mental health promotion for all students, with guidance for this work at school building, district, and state levels. The development of the monograph and other related processes (e.g., training events, webinars, pilot efforts in some states/ communities) has been supported by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Education, and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as well as three national centers/initiatives. These are the Technical Assistance Center on PBIS, the IDEA Partnership and the National Community of Practice on Collaborative School Behavioral Health and the University of Maryland Center for SMH.

The Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) training is intended to increase the understanding of the critical features and the rationale behind the braiding of MBI and school mental health through a Multi-Tiered System of Supports framework. The ISF training will demonstrate how, by following the steps of implementation science, ISF can enhance the effectiveness of our work serving children, families, and communities. This training will be specifically geared towards school mental health teams; there will be time in the agenda for dialogue between school mental health staff and OPI to better inform the implementation of ISF statewide.

Research-Based MBI/PBIS Big Articles/Webinars



Using an Interconnected Systems Framework in NITT, Project AWARE -Part 1: The "What and Why" of ISF



Using an Interconnected Systems
Framework in NITT, Project AWARE Part 2: The "How" of ISF



Using an Interconnected Systems Framework in NITT, Project AWARE -Part 3: The Outcomes of ISF

PBIS Tier Support



Tier 1 Support



Tier 2 Support



Tier 3 Support